

Fort Mifflin, Storehouse
(Commissary)
Mud Island
Marine and Penrose Ferry Road
Philadelphia
Philadelphia County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1225-D

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY HABS No. PA-1225 D

FORT MIFFLIN STOREHOUSE (Commissary)

Location: Parallel to the northeast scarp wall just east of the northeast sally port of Fort Mifflin, Mud Island, Marine and Penrose Ferry Roads, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: City of Philadelphia.

Present Use: Gift shop and rest rooms for historic site museum.

Significance: Built in 1842, the storehouse exhibits the materials and construction typical of Fort Mifflin.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A quartermaster's report noted that the storehouse, built with "brick walls, slated roof and copper gutters," was completed December 27, 1842 (Tompkins to Jessup, January 2, 1843, Consolidated Correspondence, Box 662, RG 92, NAB). The building was renovated and restored in 1960, G. Edwin Brumbaugh, architect. For additional information, see Fort Mifflin History (PA-1225).

Prepared by Alison K Hoagland
Historian
Historic American Buildings
Survey
Fall, 1979.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The plain, straightforward appearance of this structure emphasizes its functional role within the fort.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

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B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: This one-story structure is six bays wide, 55'-8", by 20'-4" deep.
2. Foundations: Brick and stone masonry.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: The approximately 1'-7" thick red brick walls, laid in common bond with a header course every eighth course, lack masonry arches over the openings.
4. Structural system: The load-bearing walls support the ceiling joists and the roof structure. Diamond-shaped bolts secure tie rods which extend through the walling below the eave line. One is near each corner of the long elevations and two are on each end elevation.
5. Chimneys: Brick chimneys rise flush from the peak of each gable end, have projecting drip courses above the roof ridge, and have two-course corbeled caps. A chimney clean-out is located between and above the masonry openings on the northwest elevation.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: On the southwest front elevation two doorways are each flanked by window openings. Extending to grade, each of the two restored doorways has a backband trimmed frame with a pair of outswinging board doors fabricated from vertical and horizontal boards and hung with strap hinges on pintles. At the interior of each opening is a pair of inswinging, partially glazed doors and a pair of outswinging screen doors above a recessed stone sill. The outer doors have vertical dead bolts.

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- b. Windows and shutters: The restored window openings with backband trimmed frames and plain sills have twelve-over-twelve-light sashes and pairs of board shutters constructed of similar vertical and horizontal boarding. Each shutter is hung with strap hinges on pintles and is secured with horizontally set dead bolts. Wrought iron shutter dogs hold the shutters open.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape and covering: The gabled roof is covered with modern slate shingles cut flush at the gable ends which do not have barge boards.
- b. Cornice and eaves: Centered between the heads of the masonry openings and the three courses of corbelled brick, which form a cornice at the eaves, is a three-course high, projecting band that defines a frieze space on the southwest elevation and continues across the end elevations.

C. Description of Interior:

The plan, originally one large space, has been subdivided by modern construction and is finished with modern materials including concrete tile and brick laid in a running bond pattern flooring; concrete blocks walls; metal doors; and plumbing, heating and lighting.

D. Site and Surroundings:

The Storehouse, adjacent to and perpendicular to the axis of the Northeast Sally Port, faces the Parade between the Soldiers' Barracks (HABS No. PA-1225-E) and foundations of the Guard House.

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A slate walk from the barracks, which intersects the axis of the Northeast Sally Port, crosses the southwest front elevation of the Storehouse and continues past the Guard House site to the Southeast Sally Port.

Prepared by Rodd L. Wheaton
Architect
Historic American Buildings
Survey
Spring, 1974.

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Fort Mifflin projects of the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) were carried out during the summers of 1969 and 1970 with grants from the Haas Community Funds in cooperation with the Philadelphia Historical Commission, the Independence National Historical Park, and the Shackamaxon Society, Inc. The projects were under the direction of James C. Massey, Chief, HABS. The 1969 survey team was supervised by R. Michael Schneider (Texas A & M University) with student assistant architects Allan H. Steenhusen (Iowa State University), Bruce V.A. Bonacher (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute), and Malcolm Heard, Jr. (Tulane University). The 1970 survey team was supervised by Allan H. Steenhusen (Iowa State University) with architect Ronald B. Tjerandsen (University of Washington) and student assistant architect John T. Shumate (Carnegie-Mellon University). The drawings were completed in 1971 by HABS architect Allan H. Steenhusen and student assistant architect Tim Wolosz (University of Cincinnati). The drawings were edited in 1972-73 under the direction of John C. Poppeliers, Chief, HABS, by HABS architects Rodd L. Wheaton and John A. Burns with student assistant architect K. Barry Peckham (University of Cincinnati). Historian for the project was A.C. (Gus) Hamblett until 1972. The data was then edited by several members of the HABS staff, including Rodd L. Wheaton, John A. Burns, and Philip Hamp, and completed by Alison K. Hoagland in 1979.